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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GIS/IPC/HR
REVIEWED BY Gail Rafi DATE 5/6/82

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AID(S) ltr

Dear Allan:

You will recall our Circular Telegram 1205 of January 4, 1965, in which we requested a report on the use of the Self-Help and Development Fund to be used in Libya for the purposes outlined in AIDTO Circular XA-549 and AIDTO Circular XA-564.

This authority was given with the expectation that an instrumentality long demanded by the field would show real results, i.e., the means to undertake small but worthwhile projects that would yield considerable impact and which would avoid unnecessary delay and red tape. For more than three months you have had the opportunity to demonstrate the characteristic American vigor and effectiveness we like to associate with our aid programs. Yet I must report that in terms of information received from your post, very little if any action to promote US interests has been taken.

In your letter of February 23 to Dave Newsom you report that you might use some or all of the money for closed circuit educational TV, or, if this is impracticable, for teaching English through films. These should be worthwhile projects, but have you considered the possibility of spending small sums in rural areas, for example, for minor repairs or small additions to schools, clinics, wells, storage bins, municipal warehouses, and irrigation ditches? It has been my experience as I have travelled through Africa that there is an insatiable need for small sums of money by local and regional officials in the rural areas. I wonder if we would not find that expenditures on seven or eight well chosen projects in rural areas could be made without conflicting with Libyan Government programs and policies and would give better results than concentrating the program in Tripoli and Benghazi.

You should

The Honorable
R. Allan Lightner, Jr.,
American Ambassador,
Tripoli.

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You should know of my deep personal interest in the rapid implementation of this program and my disappointment that so little progress has been made in the identification of worthwhile projects. I have long heard complaints, justifiable or unjustifiable, from the field generally about the failure of AID to react positively and promptly to meet obvious needs. I trust AF Ambassadors will not become subject to a similar charge. Insofar as your post is concerned, I hope you will give this matter your urgent and personal attention, and send your reply directly to me not later than April 15. Incidentally, in case you have been saving the Fund against a rainy day, you should note that if additional funds are required for worthwhile purposes, I understand that they will be forthcoming.

With every good wish.

Sincerely,

G. Mennen Williams

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